

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 004162

E.O. 11652:* GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EMERGENCY MEASURES A RESULT OF PARK'S FEARS

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SEOUL, THE EMERGENCY MEASURES INSTITUTED YESTERDAY BY SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT PARK INDICATE THAT PARK BELIEVES THERE IS NO WAY TO MAINTAIN HIMSELF IN POWER AND CONTROL THE DOMESTIC SITUATION EXCEPT BY RELYING ON THE EXPLICIT THREAT OF ARBITRARY POLICE POWER. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SOME OF PARK'S CRITICS WILL RISK ARREST TO CONTINUE THEIR CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT. (SECRET) SEOUL 128, 1/8.

2. CODEL JOHNSTON EXPLORES ALGERIAN LNG POLICY

SENATOR JOHNSTON (D-LA) STOPPED BRIEFLY IN ALGIERS ON JANUARY 7 AND 8 AND MET WITH ALGERIAN OFFICIALS PRIMARILY TO ASCERTAIN ALGERIA'S RELIABILITY AS A
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SUPPLIER OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG). THE ALGERIANS

EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SALE OF LNG IN EX-
CHANGE FOR US TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT BUT WOULD NOT

GUARANTEE THAT THE SUPPLY WOULD CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED
IN TIMES OF CRISIS. USINT ALGIERS COMMENTS THAT
PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAS NOT SET CLEAR GUIDELINES ON
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FUTURE SUPPLY OF LNG AND
US POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. (CONFIDENTIAL) ALGIERS
42, 1/8.

3. POSSIBILITY FOR A QUICK OFFSET AGREEMENT?

AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND BELIEVES THAT THE FEDERAL REPUB-
LIC OF GERMANY (FRG) MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO A US OFFER
TO COMPLETE OFFSET NEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY PROVIDED THE
FRG WOULD ASSUME AN ADDITIONAL \$75 MILLION PER YEAR IN
LOCAL SERVICING COSTS. THE AMBASSADOR NOTES THAT THE
OIL SITUATION WILL MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT
BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY FOR OUR ALLIES TO
UNILATERALLY TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE US UNDER BURDEN-
SHARING ARRANGEMENTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 352, 1/8.

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